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Average per day from plague.....	206
Number of deaths from plague officially reported for week.....	845
Average per day.....	120
Probable average number of deaths per day from plague reported as having died of other diseases.....	86
Total per day.....	206
Officially reported death rate for last week per 1,000.....	108.20
Same for corresponding week last year.....	35.68
Mean for corresponding week previous five years.....	34.42
Number of births reported last week.....	71
Number of births for corresponding week last year.....	330
Mean number for corresponding week previous five years.....	284

C. F. MEYER,
United States Vice-Consul.

TURKEY.

Sanitary report on Crete and Constantinople, with quarantine measures against plague.

[Report 170.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, *March 4, 1897.*

SIR : The sanitary news from the provinces of the Turkish Empire is rather good ; there exist always many cases and deaths from smallpox here and there, but this disease is endemic everywhere. Only when vaccination is adopted it disappears. In Turkey, in spite of the law of the regulations and the trades, we have many deaths attributed to this disease. It seems that in Crete, as I have already mentioned in my previous reports, it is raging, and now that thousands and thousands of Cretans have escaped from Crete to Greece in order not to be massacred by the Turks or bombarded by the civilized Europeans, it is to be feared that an outbreak of that disease will occur in the different towns of Greece where refugee Cretans are staying.

In Constantinople we have to deal with an epidemic of influenza, but more serious and fatal is the epidemic of scarlet fever, as well as that of typhoid fever. Many cases of these two diseases prove fatal.

According to the death returns issued from the bureau de statistique of the last week, ended March 1, there have been registered 7 deaths from scarlet fever, 7 from typhoid fever, 4 from diphtheria, 4 from smallpox, and 1 from measles.

I have the honor to forward to the Department the official communications concerning the epidemic of plague in Bombay.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,

[Inclosure—Translated in this Bureau.]

Telegram of Drs. Duca and Vaume, dated Camaran, February 21, 1897.

Eleven thousand one hundred and thirty-five pilgrims released. Lazaretto empty.

Telegram of the sanitary office of Bagdad, dated February 23, 1897.

Arrived at Bassorah: Steamer *Malamyr*, arriving from Mohammerah without passengers or merchandise; steamer *Kilwa*, arriving from Bombay and Karachi with 18 passengers. Health perfect.

Telegram of Dr. Lubicz, dated at Bassorah, February 18, 1897.

By refusing entry to all contaminated or suspected arrivals from the Arabian coast, this entire province would be left to its own food resources, which are insufficient for the provisioning of the country and the imperial troops stationed here. Provisions are received only by way of Bahrein. Authorize installation of lazaretto at Adjir, the principal port of this province, and send physicians and experienced guards.

Communication of the delegate of Great Britain made at a session of the superior council, February 23, 1897.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 19, 1897.

In response to the desire expressed by the council, at its session of the 9th of the current month, to be informed what are the measures taken at Aden, Perim, and the Somali coast, with regard to merchandise arriving from British India, the governor of Aden replies on the 15th instant to the request addressed to him by Sir Peter Currie on the 13th, that merchandise arriving from infected ports is fumigated, and exposed to the sun until the expiration of ten full days from the date of departure from the infected port. This rule has been followed at Aden, Perim, and at ports on the Somali coast. Up to the present time no direct importation from India has arrived at any of these ports.

E. D. DICKSON,
Delegate of England.

Teskeré read in session of the superior council, February 23, 1897.

[His highness the vali of Bassorah to his highness the grand vizier.]

FEBRUARY 17, 1897.

Contaminated arrivals are rejected by order of the superior authority, along an extent of 500 miles of the coast, from Faô to Catao, but as the agricultural productions of the Sandjak of Nejd are not sufficient for local needs, the population and the imperial army import these provisions by way of the Island of Bahrein. Interruption of communication with that locality would result in lack of provisions and a host of difficulties.

With a view to preventing these inconveniences without affecting the execution of necessary measures of prophylaxis and sanitary supervision, a lazaretto should be established at Adjir, which is the port of the Sandjak of Nejd, and which is also the capital of a district, and persons arriving there should be quarantined according to the sanitary regulations. I therefore petition your highness, on recommendation received from the commission, to order the necessary work to be accelerated.

Communication read in session of the superior council of health February 23, 1897.

[Telegram of the ambassador of Turkey at Teheran, addressed to the minister of foreign affairs, February 21, 1897.]

Plague is increasing at Bombay and Karachi. According to information from our consul at Bender Bouchir, quarantine at this port exists only in name. The English physician, charged with applying quarantine measures against arrivals from India, pays no attention to the orders given him by the Persian Government on this subject, and executes only those given him by his own Government. You may deduce from this the measures of defence applied in the other localities on the Persian littoral of the Persian Gulf. Russia has already sent nine sanitary physicians from the frontier of Khorassan.

Telegram of the vali of Yemen dated February 14, 1897.

The vali of Yemen calls attention of the minister of the interior to the very frequent communication existing between the littoral of Yemen and Aden, where no quarantine measure is taken against arrivals from India.

The minister of the interior refers the above telegram to the sanitary department, begging the said department to take the necessary steps.

Telegram of the sanitary office of Bagdad, February 25, 1897.

Steamer *Monica* has arrived at Bassorah from Bombay bringing no passengers. Health of the crew good.

Telegram of Dr. Lubicz dated Bassorah, February 25, 1897.

Consul Bouchir informs our vali that Persia has subjected arrivals from Bassorah to fifteen days' quarantine.

Report of the Turkish consul-general at Bombay, dated January 19, 1897, read in session of the superior council of health February 23.

The consul-general of Turkey at Bombay informs the imperial department of foreign affairs that he will report by telegram, immediately on confirmation, the news of the prohibition of embarkation of pilgrims at Bombay beginning with February 1. Plague has been imported to Karachi and numbers from 20 to 30 victims daily. Many deaths have also occurred at other cities in the vicinity of Bombay, such as Poona, Belgavoun, etc., at which places the population of Bombay sought refuge. It is feared lest the epidemic should propagate itself throughout Hindustan, and the newspapers demand the adoption of urgent measures. Since the appearance of plague at Bombay the population has been reduced by flight from 850,000 to about 400,000, more than 400,000 having left the city. According to the newspapers, about 4,000 shops have been closed, which proves the decline of commerce with the interior. The quarantine established everywhere and the prohibitory decrees in Europe against importation of merchandise from India have lowered the commerce of the interior 80 per cent. The spectacle presented by the agriculturists since the exodus of the population, the destruction of commerce, and the famine is lamentable. An article that was formerly worth 100 piasters can not now find a purchaser at 40 piasters. These are the consequences of an epidemic which has lasted four months. During the week just finished there were 1,758 deaths, of which only 470 were due to plague, but these official statistics can not be considered as exact, inasmuch as the persons attacked have not all gone to the special hospitals, and the deaths that have occurred in households remain unknown.

Communication of the delegate of France, made in session of the superior council of health, February 23, 1897.

The sanitary conference of Venice having approved the sanitary convention of Paris, to which the powers have given in their adhesion, the superior council of health is of opinion that the works recommended by the conference should not be delayed, in view of present sanitary conditions, and it expresses the hope that the Imperial Ottoman Government will immediately examine the question of its adhesion to the sanitary convention of Paris, in order to arrive at the understanding necessary for carrying out the measures proposed by the conference for preventing the propagation of plague.

Teskeré of the grand vizier, communicated to the superior council of health in session of March 2, 1897.

His highness the grand vizier, by his teskeré of February 24, 1897, communicated to the sanitary department an imperial iradé, drawing the attention of Europe, through the medium of the sanitary administration, to the fact that plague is assuming a considerable development at Bombay and Karachi; that quarantine at Bender-Bouchir exists only in name; that the English physician in charge of the sanitary service at that port pays no attention to orders received from the Persian Government; that he executes only the orders of his own Government. From this may be derived an idea of what occurs at other Persian ports.

Circular telegram to health offices, dated March 3, 1897.

By decision of the superior council of health importation into Turkey will be prohibited for all animal products arriving from Hindustan and Beloochistan, viz, leather and skins, nails, horns, and all other animal products of any sort whatever.

AHMED MIDHAT,
Vice-President of the Council.

Circular telegram to health officers, dated March 3, 1897.

By decision of the superior council of health vessels arriving from ports of Hindustan and Beloochistan without having complied with the prescribed quarantine of fifteen days at an Ottoman lazaretto, or in some other foreign lazaretto, shall not be admitted to the benefits of article 7, relative to transit in quarantine; they shall not be allowed to pass the straits of the Dardanelles until they shall first have submitted to the quarantine rule in force.

AHMED MIDHAT,
Vice-President of the Council.